


# SCOTLAND THE BIG PICTURE

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rewriting nature's story





“ Many of us suffer from ecological blindness. We don’t see the degraded landscapes and the animals we’ve lost because we’re not conditioned to look. ”

Gus Routledge, Young Rewilder





It wasn't so long ago that wild forests teeming with life stretched across much of the country. Rivers flowed freely, brimming with insects, birds and fish. A mosaic of rich wetlands was shaped by beavers and echoed to the calls of cranes.

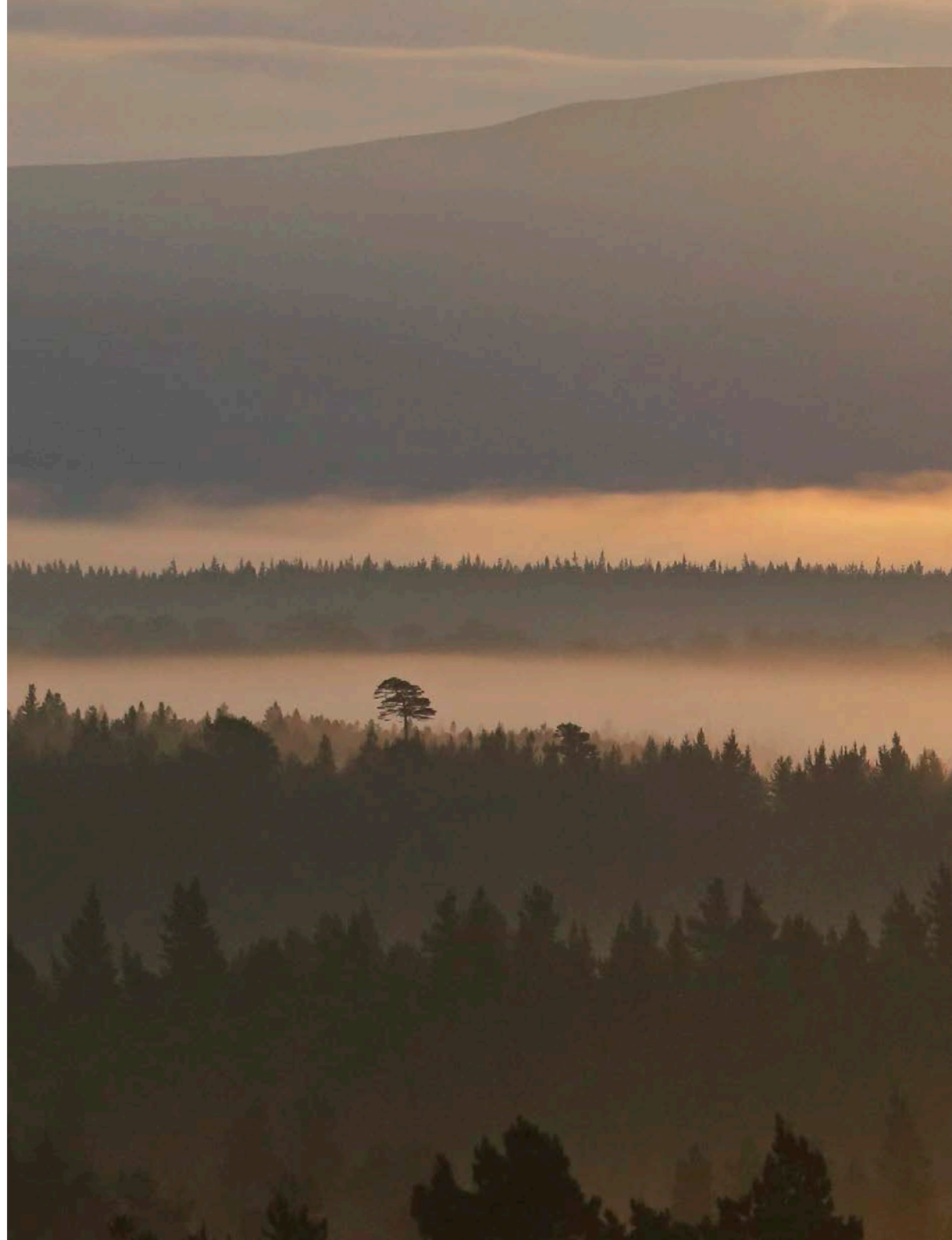
Today, millions of treeless hectares dominate the map. Centuries of burning, felling and over-grazing have led the living systems, upon which we all depend, to falter and fail.

All of Scotland's large carnivores are extinct, so too most of its large herbivores. Many species that were once prolific now teeter on the edge, and conservation efforts focus on saving the fragments and threads of nature we have left.

**It doesn't have to be this way.**

There exists an extraordinary opportunity to stitch back together an intricate tapestry of life across Scotland's land and sea, where nature, in all its colourful complexity, is reawakened to regulate our climate and provide us with what we need to survive.

It is called **rewilding**.







# Rewilding is a new way of thinking

Rewilding seeks to return abundance and diversity of life to Scotland's land and seas. It's about healing our damaged and degraded ecosystems, giving nature more freedom, so that rivers flow freely, forests and peatlands regenerate, and wild animals can roam unimpeded across a seamless landscape, shaped by natural processes.

## Rewilding enables wildlife to recover

Giving nature more space will allow lost wildlife to return, catalysing dynamic processes such as predator-prey interactions.

## Rewilding makes us healthier

Time spent in wild nature can transform our health and wellbeing, and especially support children's physical and personal development.

## Rewilding is good for business

Nature-rich landscapes create jobs and vibrant communities through a diverse nature-based economy.

## Rewilding secures our future

When living systems function effectively, they store carbon, clean air and water, reduce flood risk and improve soil quality.

# Rewilding: The time is now

Nature is in global decline. There is a growing scientific consensus that the next 30 years will be decisive for wildlife, climate and people.

## **Just 30 years.**

Within this frighteningly narrow window, a huge shift in our thinking is required. Rewilding asks us all to reconsider our place in the natural order, as one species among many, bound together in an intricate web of life that ties us to every other living creature on the planet.

With a change in mindset, amazing things can happen. In places like Glenfeshie shown overleaf, rewilding actions are bringing whole landscapes back to life. Elsewhere, sea eagles are once again soaring high in Scottish skies, ospreys and pine martens have bounced back and beavers are rejuvenating Scotland's wetlands after an absence of 400 years.

These remarkable stories show what is possible when people work together to create positive change.

**It's time to rewrite nature's story.**









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**S**COTLAND: The Big Picture works with a diverse range of people to make rewilding happen, at many different levels, across Scotland.

Established in 2016, we became the first organisation in Scotland wholly dedicated to communicating the benefits of rewilding and bringing the conversation into the mainstream. Today, as a small, agile charity, our task is to unite people around a shared vision of a vast

network of rewilded land and water across Scotland, where wildlife and people flourish.

We are not however, in the business of telling people what to do. People's choices and perceptions are key to rewilding being rolled out at the scale necessary to combat climate breakdown and nature loss, but we recognise that change is never easy. Perceiving the Scottish landscape differently might not be an easy shift in thinking for everyone, and although we see rewilding as a huge opportunity, others may see it as a threat to traditional livelihoods.

We believe it's therefore important to recognise different people's values and priorities, and to work with honesty and transparency within a respectful dialogue.

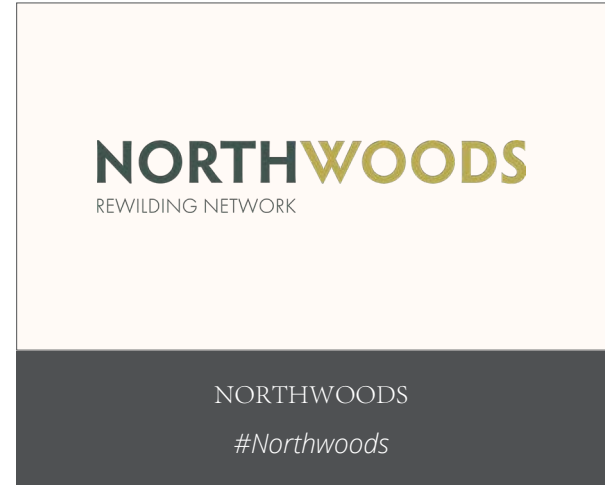
# Our projects



RIVERWOODS  
*#Riverwoods*



CAIRNGORMS CRANES  
*#WildlifeComeback*



NORTHWOODS  
*#Northwoods*



LYNX TO SCOTLAND  
*#WildlifeComeback*



BUILDING BRIDGES  
*#BuildingBridges*



SCOTTISH REWILDING ALLIANCE

Find out more at [www.scotlandbigpicture.com](http://www.scotlandbigpicture.com)







# Rewriting the story



- Since 2016, SCOTLAND: The Big Picture has produced 4 landmark books and has gifted its latest two, *The Lynx and Us* and *SCOTLAND: A Rewilding Journey*, to more than 2,000 key landowners, politicians and influencers.
- In 2019, we delivered more than 50 inspiring presentations to audiences across Scotland and beyond, resulting in farmers, crofters and landowners seeking our advice on how to approach rewilding their land.
- Our *Think Like A Mountain* community unites a diverse group of more than



10,000 people and our social media reach extends beyond 300,000.

- We are pioneering rewilding retreats in the Scottish Highlands to not only provide a rich and fulfilling learning experience for our guests, but to make the case for rewilding as a valuable economic contributor to rural communities.
- We were co-founders of the Scottish Rewilding Alliance, a coalition of organisations committed to promoting the principles of rewilding at both public and policy level.
- Our Big Picture conference in 2019 was the first major event in Scotland dedicated to rewilding and was



attended by 500 people from a diverse range of backgrounds.

- Our growing Young Rewilders programme harnesses the energy and social outreach of youth rewilding ambassadors.
- We continue to provide communications support for organisations such as Cairngorms Connect, Wildland, Woodland Trust, Scottish Rewilding Alliance and Trees for Life, along with producing multimedia resources for a wide range of grassroots organisations.

“ Rewilding is as much a philosophical change in mindset as it is a physical change to the land and sea. ”



James Shooter, Head of *Rewilding Escapes*  
SCOTLAND: The Big Picture



“ Rewilding has come to be associated with the absence of people, but nothing could be further from the truth. Across Europe, rewilding is creating well-paid jobs. It offers rural communities in Scotland new opportunities, for young people in particular. But we have to get past this fear of nature ‘taking over’. If we give nature a chance, it will reward us. ”

Alan Hepburn, Trustee,  
SCOTLAND: The Big Picture





“ Scotland could become a world leader in restoring its broken ecosystems, but the key to realising its potential lies with people and their willingness to consider a different relationship with wild nature. ”



Peter Cairns, Executive Director,  
SCOTLAND: The Big Picture

“ Allowing this young sea eagle a life free of persecution is a simple matter between right and wrong. And that too, is part of rewilding. ”

Holly Gillibrand, Young rewilder  
SCOTLAND: The Big Picture



## The red squirrel's story...

Scotland's native pinewoods cover just a fraction of their original range, effectively imprisoning red squirrels within isolated fragments of forest.

*With your support we can help restore woodland corridors giving squirrels freedom to roam.*

Let's rewrite the red squirrel's story.



## Ameli's story...

Ameli is 5-years old and she is lucky enough to attend Mucky Boots forest kindergarten near her home, climbing trees and building dens.

*40% of children never play outdoors. Your gift will help us advocate for a new relationship with nature, in which more children like Ameli learn to love the wild world.*

Let's rewrite the story for Scotland's children.



## The crane's story...

Cranes were once common throughout Scotland, their evocative bugling synonymous with rich wetlands. Like so many species, cranes were hunted to extinction.

*We plan to restore cranes to the Cairngorms. Please help us put this vital piece of the ecological jigsaw back in place.*

Let's rewrite the crane's story.





## Duncan's story...

Duncan has been a salmon angler for 30 years. In rivers where he once caught several fish a day, he's now lucky to land one in three days.

*Your donation will allow us to campaign for the health of Scotland's rivers, the life within them and the landscapes through which they flow.*

Let's rewrite Duncan's story.



## Lynbreck's story...

When Lynn and Sandra bought Lynbreck Croft, its hills were bare. Today their approach to nature-friendly farming means their business is booming.

*You can help us work with more farmers to explore new business opportunities in a revitalised wildlife-rich landscape.*

Let's help Scotland's farmers rewrite their own story.



You can help create a vast network of rewilded land and water across Scotland, where wildlife and people flourish.

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**Help us make more rewilding happen.**







# Donate

## Make a donation now

You can easily donate online by credit card, paypal or BACS. Check out our website for more details: [www.scotlandbigpicture.com/Donate](http://www.scotlandbigpicture.com/Donate)

## Support rewilding every month

A regular gift will help us create a vast network of rewilded land and water across Scotland, where wildlife and people flourish.

## Corporate rewilding

Talk to us about how your business can help breathe new life into Scotland's damaged and degraded ecosystems.

## Give by cheque

Please make your cheque payable to **SCOTLAND: The Big Picture** and post to: **Ballintean, Glenfeshie, Kingussie, UK, PH21 1NX**

# Get in touch

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# THE BIG PICTURE DREAM

It's time to rewrite  
nature's story.

is a Scotland where...

- ... wild forests teem with life
- ... rivers brimming with salmon and trout flow freely
- ... wetlands are shaped by beavers and echo to the calls of cranes
- ... healthy peatlands regulate climate and purify water
- ... oceans support an abundance of life
- ... communities are flourishing in a vibrant nature-based economy